

HOUSE BILL 1229

By Cooper

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to teacher training.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 56, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, the department of education may create a program that allows all students wishing to enter approved teacher training programs or students currently enrolled in an approved teacher training program, to serve as a mentor to parents and students enrolled in a public school who are recipients of assistance in the families first program operated pursuant to title 71, chapter 3, part 1, or any successor program.

(b) The department of education, in consultation with the Tennessee higher education commission, shall create an application and selection process for schools and students to apply for the program created in subsection (a). The department shall ensure that the students meet the appropriate background and academic requirements to participate in the program. The department shall receive written authorization from the director of schools and principal of a school that seeks participation in this program.

(c) Upon written approval by the department of education and LEA, the student may, with the permission of the director of the LEA and the principal of the school:

(1) Assist teachers in maintaining classroom organization;

(2) Provide resources and individual assistance to students in a classroom, when needed;

(3) Participate in home visits;

(4) Recommend additional resources for children who are unable to buy books pursuant to § 49-6-3013 and lack clothing or food pursuant to § 49-6-3014;

(5) Work with specific programs in schools to improve the quality of the education;

(6) Informally counsel parents and students about the school's honors programs and college preparation;

(7) Encourage the administration of the school the and LEA to participate in the Community Schools Act pursuant to chapter 6, part 24 of this title; and

(8) Administer any other assistance required by the LEA to improve parent participation in school.

(d) A student enrolled in the program pursuant to this section shall reapply at the end of each school year to participate the following school year.

SECTION 2. The commissioner of education is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 3. For the purpose of promulgating rules, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect January 1, 2018, the public welfare requiring it.